GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1072
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2016
Safety for Journalists and Reporters
Patole Shri Nanabhau Falgunrao

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note of the annual report of Reporters without Borders (2005) stating that India is the most unsafe place for journalists and reporters;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(c) the total number of journalists and reporters killed/injured due to reporting about illegal mining, criminal gangs and their leaders during 2015, State-wise;

(d) the number of persons arrested in this regard and the action taken against the guilty, State-wise; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to stop such cases and to provide security to journalists and reporters?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR)

(a) to (b): The Press Council of India in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has taken note of the report of Reporters without Borders (RWB) and stated that the sources of RWB in India are ambiguous, and the sampling is quite random in nature which does not portray a proper and comprehensive picture of freedom of the press in India.
(c) to (d): State/UT wise cases registered and persons arrested under attack on media persons (under section 325, 326, 326A & 326B IPC) during 2015 is at Annexure.
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LS.US.Q.No.1072 FOR 22.11.2016
(e): 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and therefore, the State Governments are primarily responsible for prevention, detection, registration and investigation of crime and for prosecuting the criminals through the machinery of their law enforcement agencies, as also for protecting the life and property of the citizens including journalists. Existing laws are adequate for protection of citizens including journalists.